



PROBABLY THE

IN THE UNIVERSE!

INVINCIBLE

44

\$2.99
\$3.20 CAN



KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER, INKER

BILL CRABTREE

COLORIST

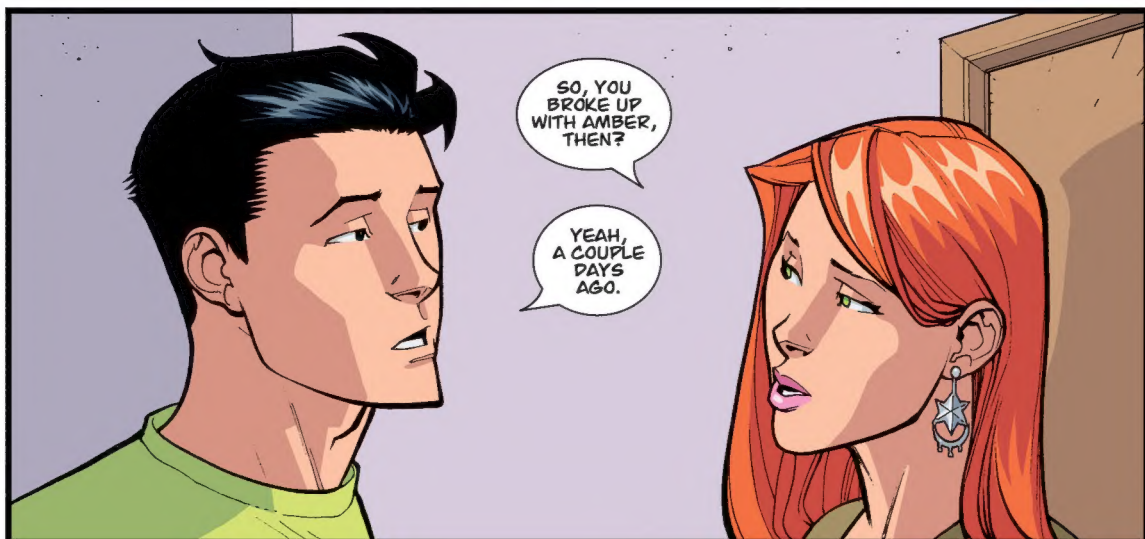
RUS WOOTON

LETTERER

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



INVINCIBLE #44. July 2007. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2007 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.





WERE YOU GOING TO CALL ME?



OF COURSE. I JUST... I JUST BROKE UP WITH HER. I STILL HAD SOME THINGS TO WORK OUT, Y'KNOW?

I WAS GOING TO CALL YOU. OR JUST VISIT.



SO--YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT?

US, I MEAN?



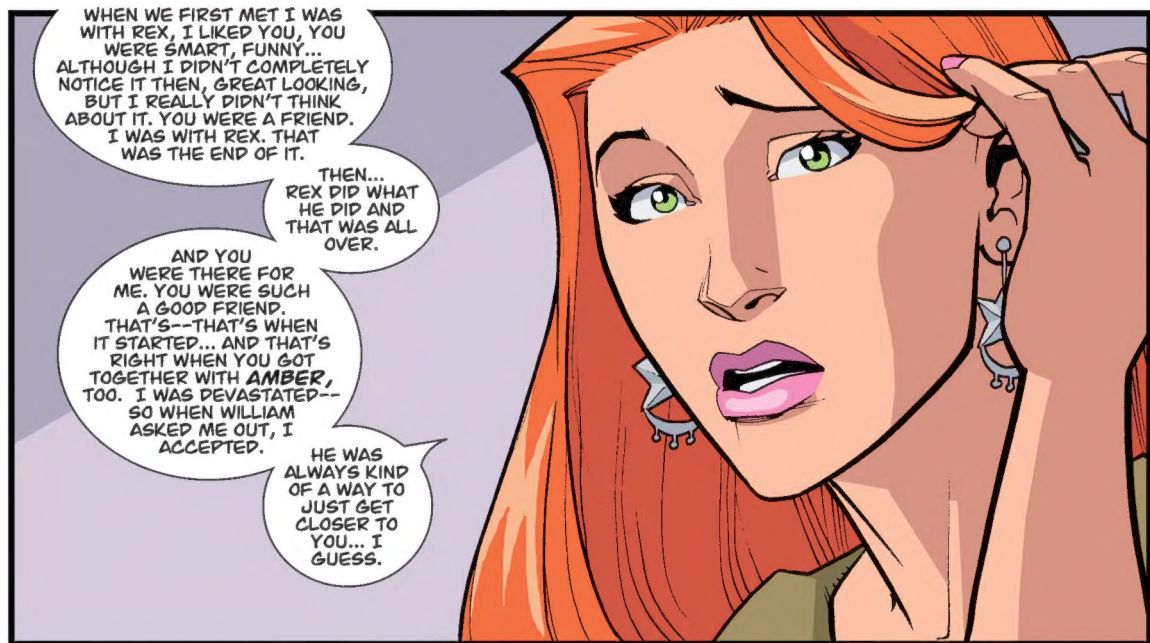
OF COURSE, EVE. I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU. I WAS JUST TAKING SOME TIME.

LOOK AT YOU--WHERE'S THAT NAME BRAND ATOM EVE CONFIDENCE? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.



I DON'T KNOW. IT'S... UGH.

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, FOR ME.



WHEN WE FIRST MET I WAS WITH REX, I LIKED YOU, YOU WERE SMART, FUNNY... ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T COMPLETELY NOTICE IT THEN, GREAT LOOKING, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT. YOU WERE A FRIEND. I WAS WITH REX. THAT WAS THE END OF IT.

THEN... REX DID WHAT HE DID AND THAT WAS ALL OVER.

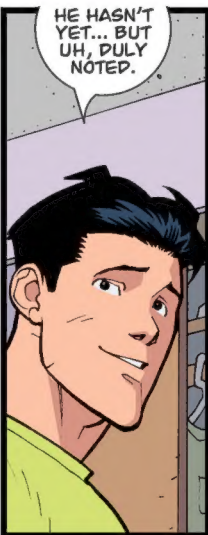
AND YOU WERE THERE FOR ME. YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND. THAT'S--THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED... AND THAT'S RIGHT WHEN YOU GOT TOGETHER WITH AMBER, TOO. I WAS DEVASTATED--SO WHEN WILLIAM ASKED ME OUT, I ACCEPTED.

HE WAS ALWAYS KIND OF A WAY TO JUST GET CLOSER TO YOU... I GUESS.



IF HE EVER EVEN IMPLIES THAT WE SLEPT TOGETHER I'LL KILL HIM.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

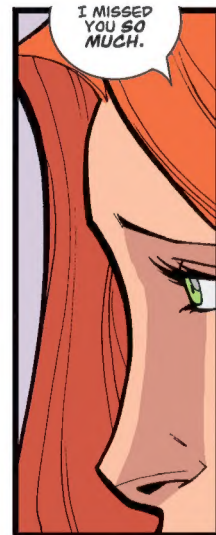


HE HASN'T YET... BUT UH, DULY NOTED.

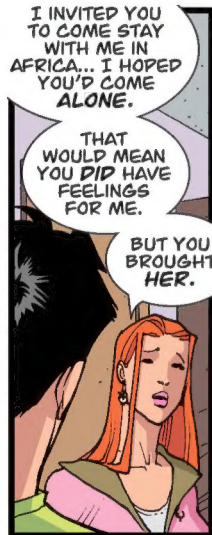


AFTER I BROKE UP WITH WILLIAM, I JUST-- IT WAS PAINFUL TO BE AROUND YOU. YOU AND AMBER WERE SO HAPPY IT... I DID GO TO AFRICA TO HELP PEOPLE, TO DO GOOD...

BUT BEING AWAY FROM YOU WAS A BIG PART OF IT.



I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

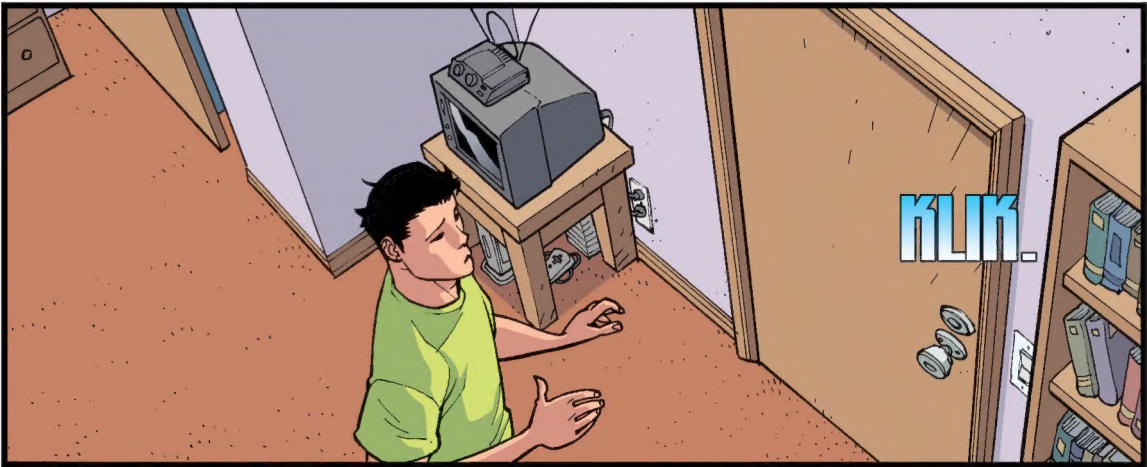
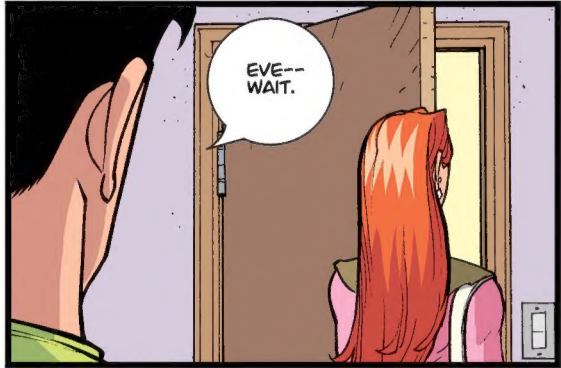
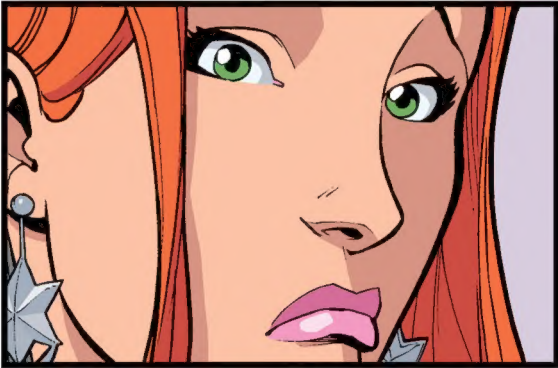
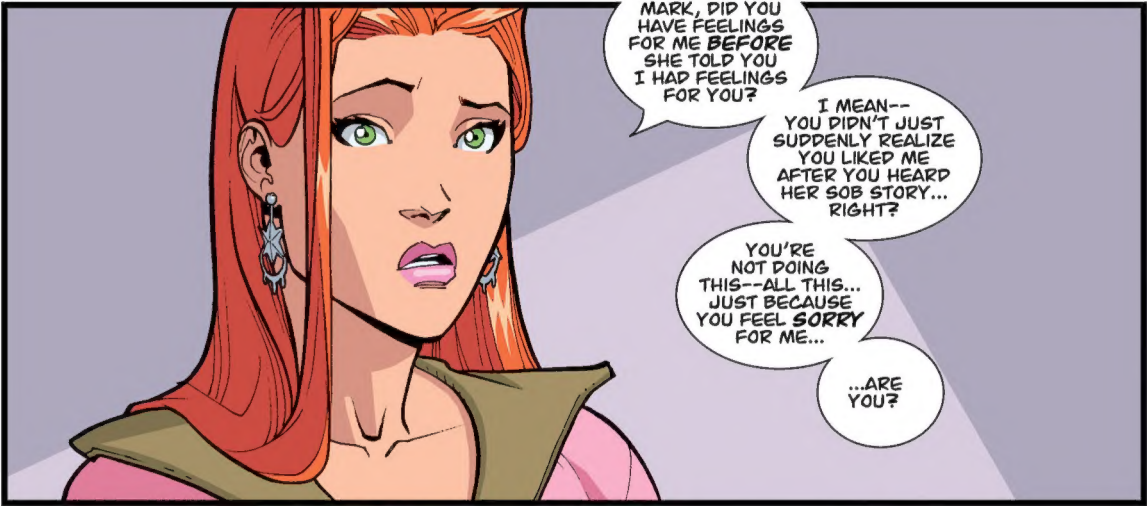


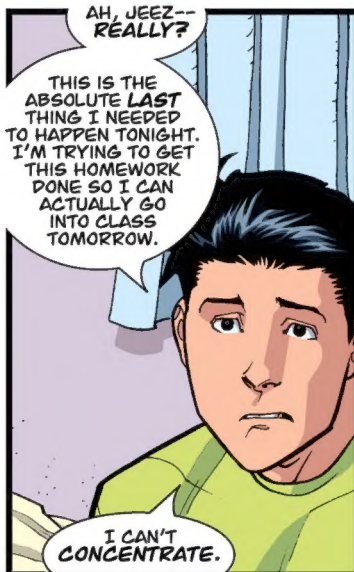
I INVITED YOU TO COME STAY WITH ME IN AFRICA... I HOPED YOU'D COME ALONE.

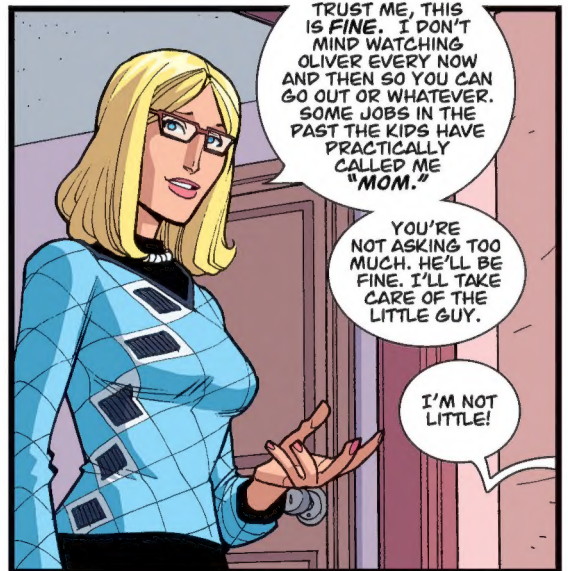
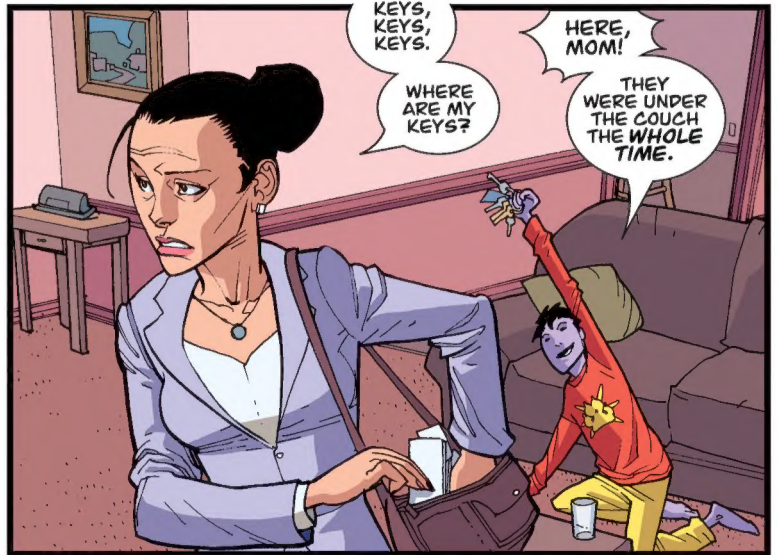
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU DID HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

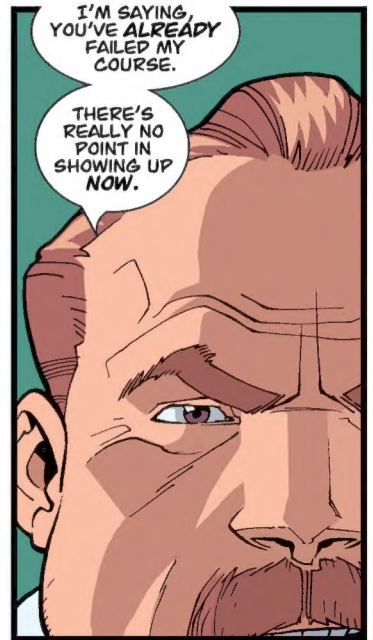
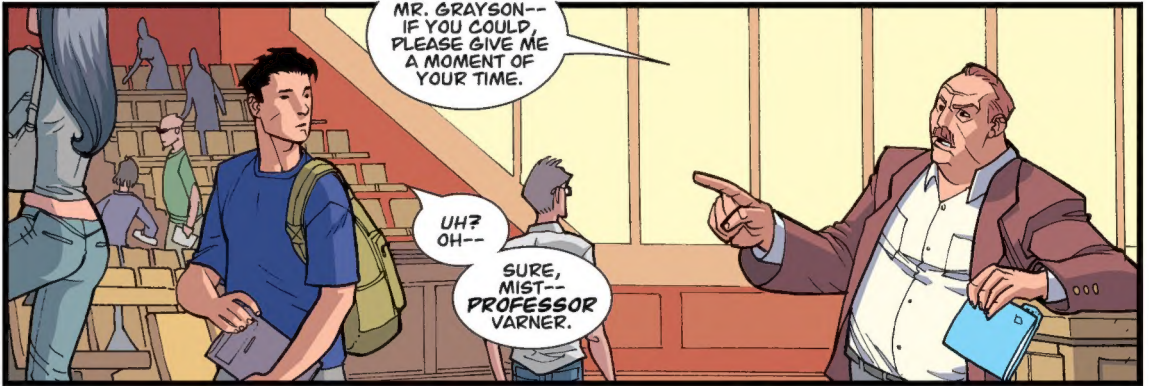
BUT YOU BROUGHT HER.

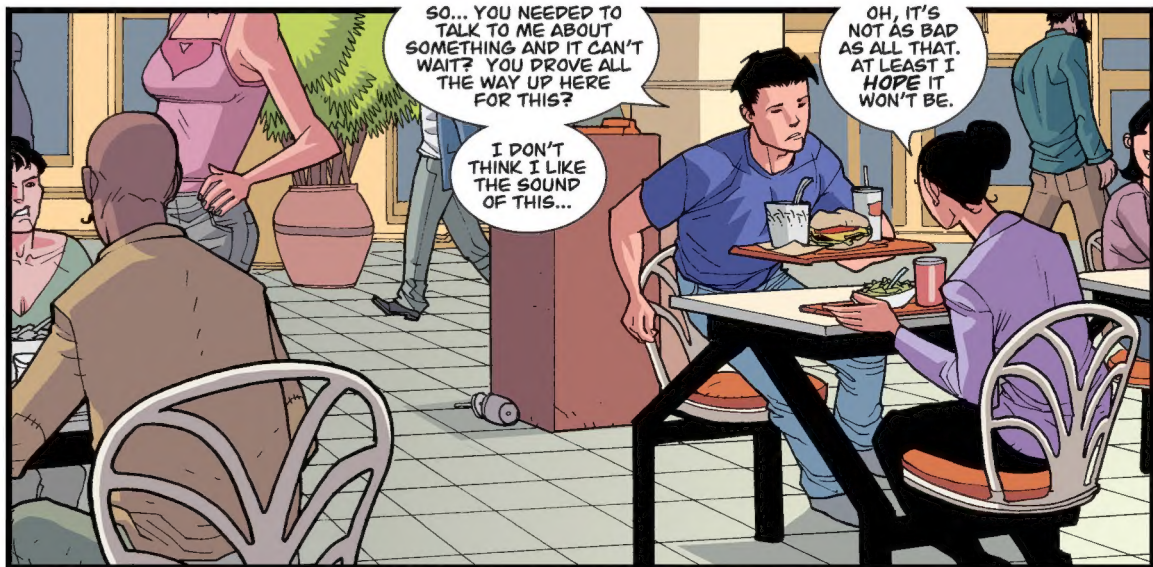


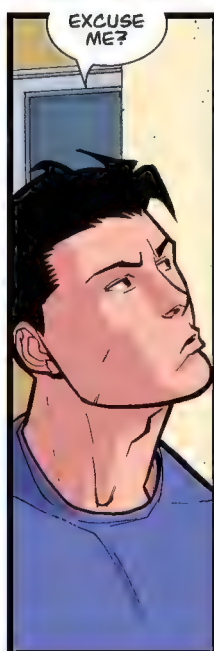
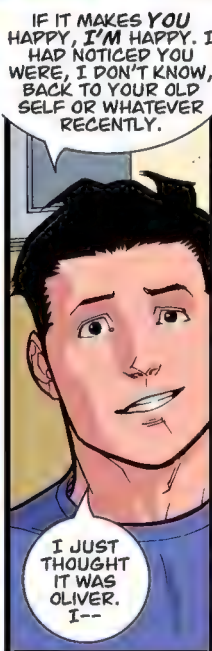
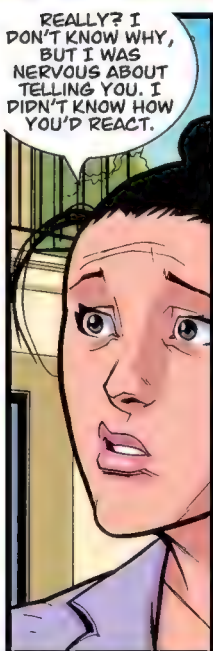
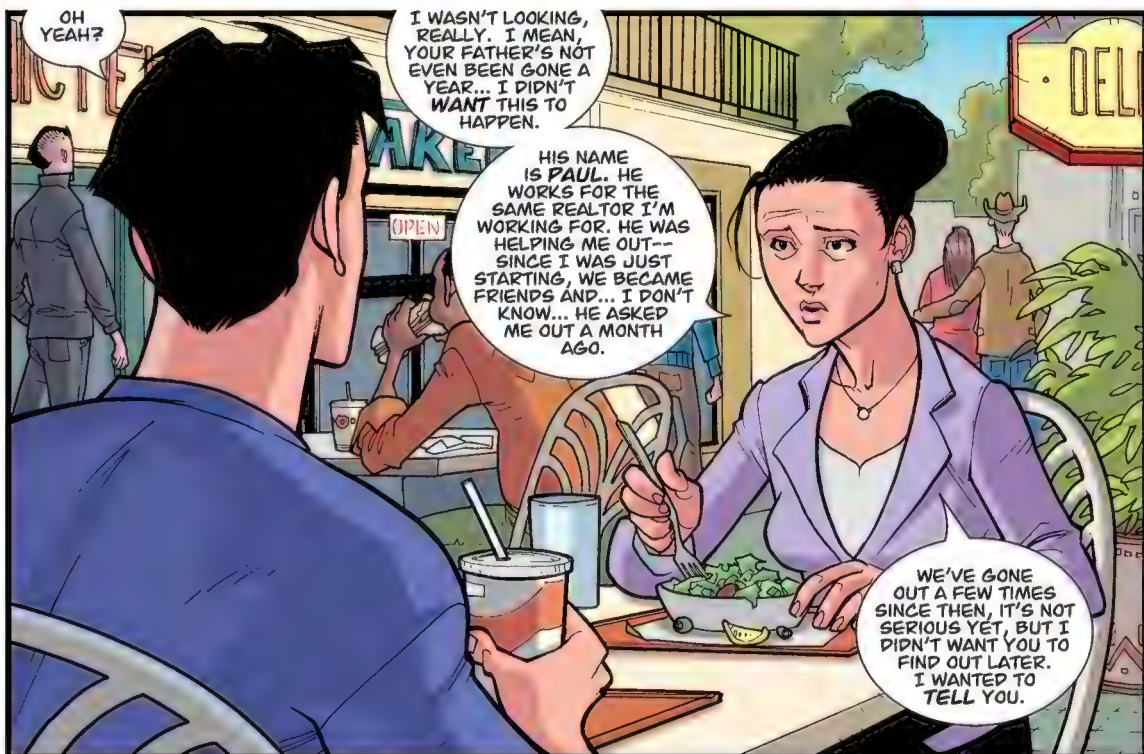
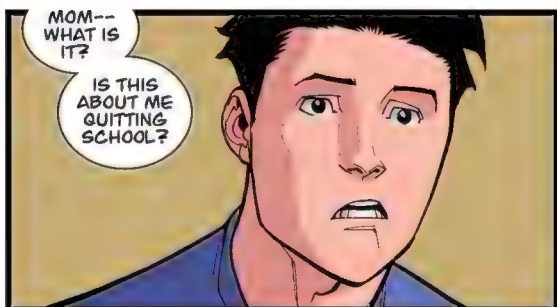


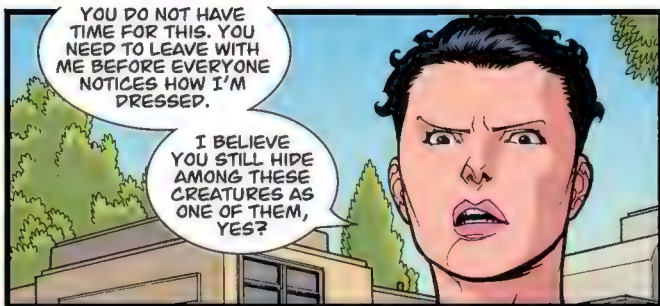
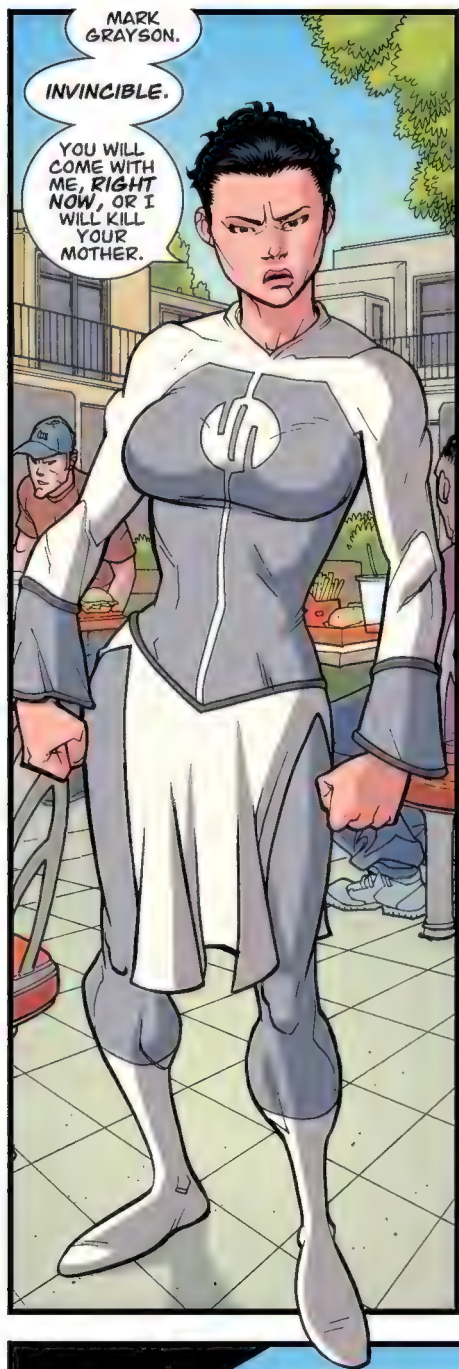


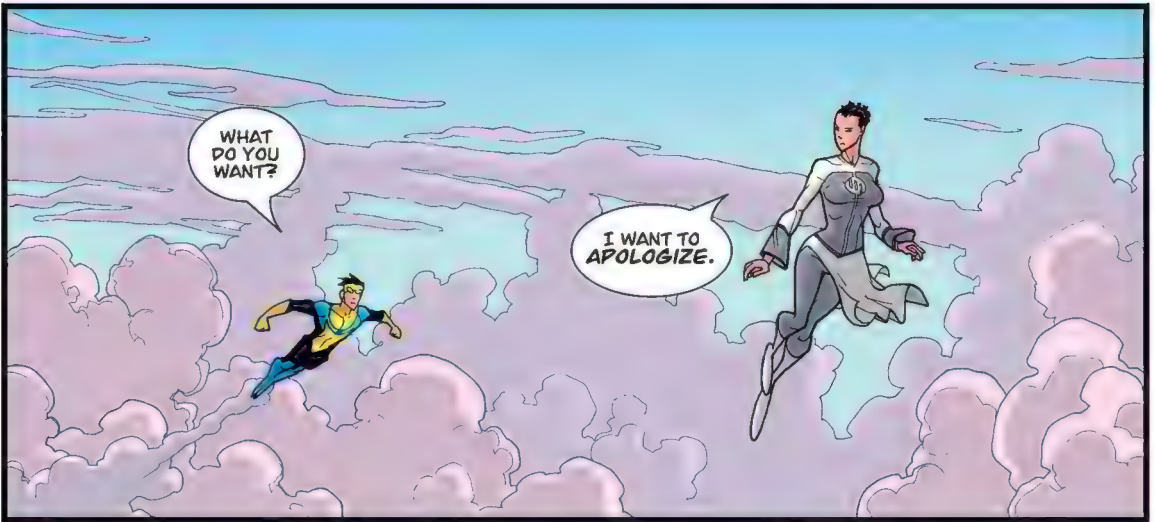






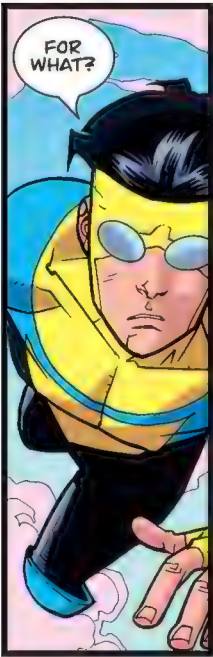






WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.



FOR WHAT?

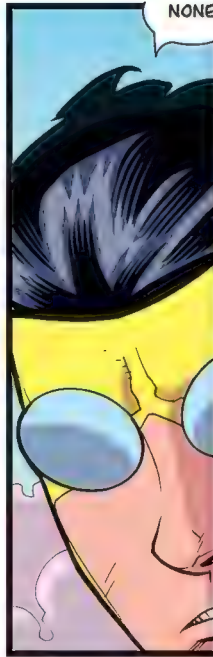
FOR THREATENING YOUR MOTHER. THAT'S NOT HOW I WANTED THIS TO START. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I THOUGHT I COULD GET YOU ALONE QUICKLY.

FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.



YOU HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED THE VILTRUMITE AGENT OF THIS PLANET. WHAT STEPS HAVE YOU TAKEN TO PREPARE THIS PLANET FOR EVENTUAL TAKEOVER?

NONE.



I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, MARK.

TRUST ME. IF I WERE HERE TO HURT YOU--YOU'D ALREADY BE DEAD.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TO CLARIFY THINGS. I BELIEVE YOU ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT VILTRUMITES ARE WARMONGERS, A RACE TO BE FEARED, OPPOSED, EVEN DESTROYED.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN.

AND YOU STARTED BY THREATENING TO KILL MY MOTHER?

I WON'T DENY THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VILTRUMITES AND THE PEOPLE YOU WERE RAISED AMONGST.

"FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES?"

YOU THINK?!

OUR PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO TURN VIOLENT. IT IS SOMETHING WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH. HAVE YOU NOT EXPERIENCED THIS YOURSELF?

DESPITE WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT US AND OUR NATURE. YOU ARE MISUNDERSTANDING THE INTENT OF OUR DRIVE TO CONQUER OTHER WORLDS.

WE TAKE OVER, YES, AND WE DO TAKE OUR SHARE OF A PLANET'S NATURAL RESOURCES BUT WE BRING SO MUCH TO THE PLANET IN RETURN.

WE REALLY HAVE A LOT TO OFFER.

LIKE WHAT?!



IS THIS PLANET NOT RIPPLED WITH DEATH AND DISEASE? ARE THESE PEOPLE NOT PLAGUED BY VIOLENCE AND WAR?

A VILTRUMITE OCCUPATION WOULD RIP THEM OF ALL THAT. WE WOULD SHARE OUR TECHNOLOGY, CURE THEIR DISEASES. NO UNSANCTIONED VIOLENCE WOULD OCCUR UNDER OUR RULE.

WE COULD TRANSFORM THIS WORLD INTO A UTOPIA.

YOU MEAN THE SLAVES WOULD BE COMPLACENT?

THEY'D BE FED AND HAPPY WHILE YOU SUCKED THIS PLANET DRY-- RUINING IT.



IT WOULD TAKE HUNDREDS OF YEARS FOR US TO HARVEST WHAT WE NEED FROM THIS PLANET. DURING THAT TIME THESE PEOPLE WOULD EXPERIENCE AN AGE OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING LIKE THEY'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.

THIS WOULD LAST FOR GENERATIONS, UNTIL NO ONE EVEN REMEMBERED THE WORLD BEFORE.



...AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE?



WHEN WE'RE DONE WE WILL HAVE **DESTROYED** THIS PLANET--THE SAME AS THESE BEINGS YOU WISH TO PROTECT ARE ALREADY DOING.

NOTHING WOULD BE LOST.



I HATE TO INTERRUPT THIS THRILLING CONVERSATION--WHICH WE'RE RECORDING-- BUT I'VE GOT A **BIG** JOB FOR YOU.

SEE IF SHE'LL LET YOU BREAK AWAY. SEE HOW **FRIENDLY** SHE REALLY WANTS TO APPEAR.



EXCUSE ME, THIS IS VERY INTERESTING BUT I'VE GOT A THING I'VE GOT TO DO **RIGHT NOW**. PEOPLE ARE DYING.

I AM AWARE THAT YOU PROTECT THESE PEOPLE. IF IT WILL CONVINCE YOU THAT I AM COMPASSIONATE TOWARD THESE PEOPLE I WILL HELP.



FINE.

WHATEVER.

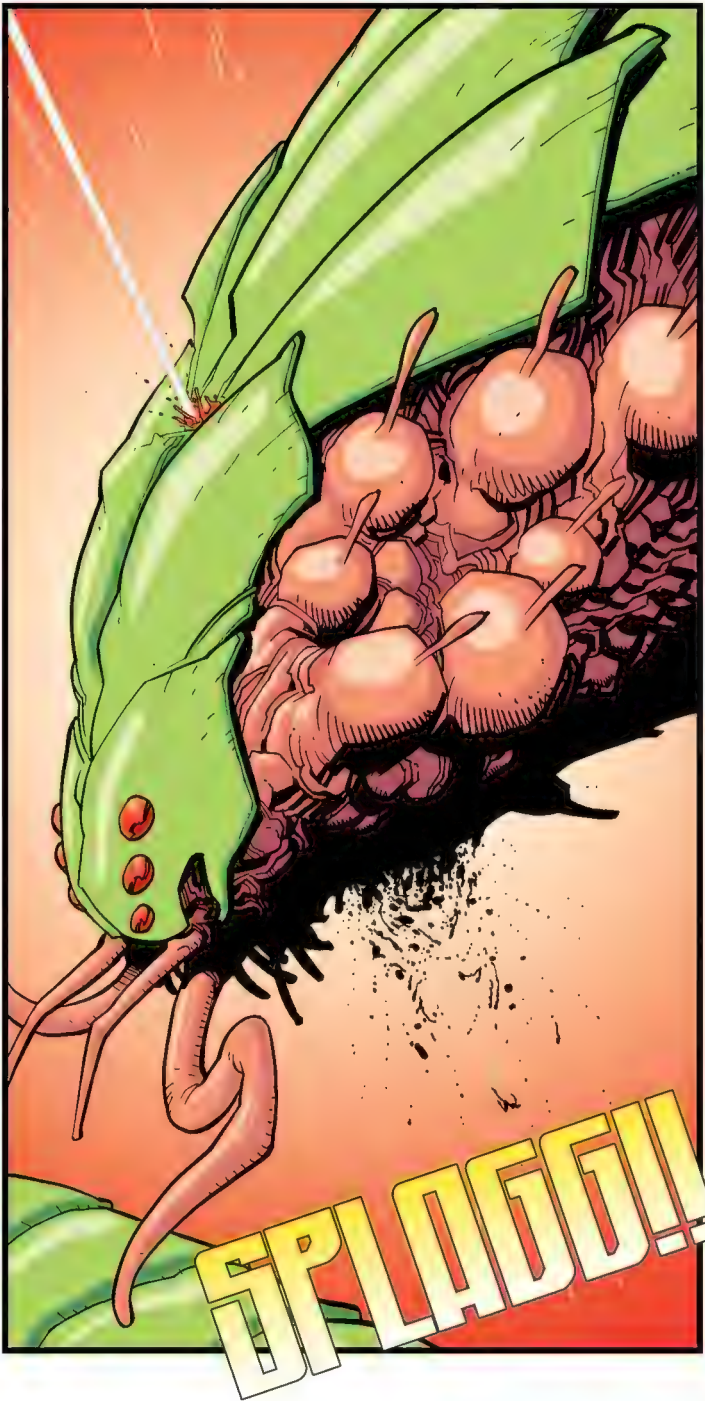
JUST REMEMBER-- WE'RE SAVING PEOPLE--NOT HURTING THEM.

I'LL TRY MY BEST TO REMEMBER.



HOLY
CRAP.

THE
MONSTER--I
CAN HURT
THE MONSTER,
RIGHT?







SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

YOU DID
SOME VERY
IMPRESSIVE
WORK
TODAY.



WHATEVER.

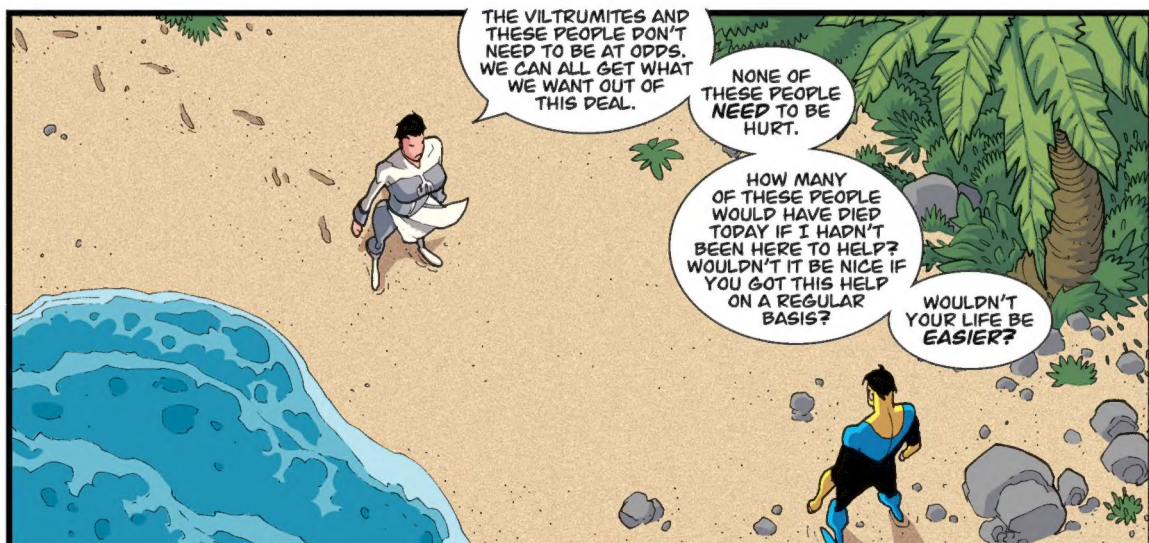
SHUFFLE

YOU
DID MOST
OF THE
WORK
HERE.



STILL, I CAN
SEE THAT YOU
CARE A GREAT
DEAL ABOUT THIS
PLANET AND ITS
INHABITANTS.

I
RESPECT
THAT.

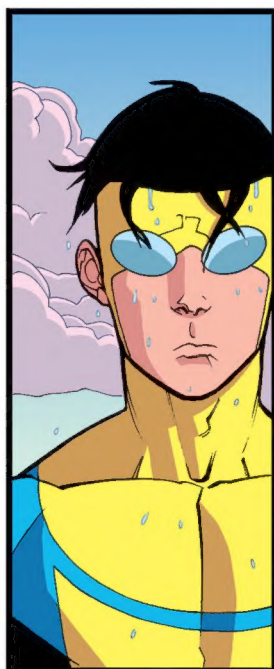


THE VILTRUMITES AND
THESE PEOPLE DON'T
NEED TO BE AT OPDS.
WE CAN ALL GET WHAT
WE WANT OUT OF
THIS DEAL.

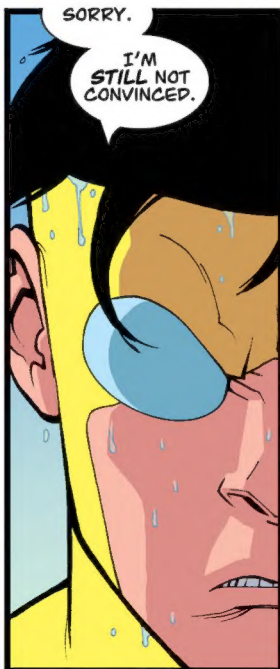
NONE
OF THESE PEOPLE
NEED TO BE
HURT.

HOW MANY
OF THESE PEOPLE
WOULD HAVE DIED
TODAY IF I HADN'T
BEEN HERE TO HELP?
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF
YOU GOT THIS HELP
ON A REGULAR
BASIS?

WOULDN'T
YOUR LIFE BE
EASIER?



SO--
WHAT DO
YOU SAY? ARE
YOU GOING TO
WORK WITH US?



SORRY.

I'M
STILL NOT
CONVINCED.



I'M SORRY
TO HEAR THAT.

WHO-KOOM!!!

THIS
WASN'T A
NEGOTIATION.

